

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 and 18-33 are pending, claims 1-9 having been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 10, 11, 18 and 19 are amended and new claims 26-33 are presented. Support for the amendments to claims 10, 11, 18 and 19 can be found, for example, in the present specification at paragraph [0045], and in original claims 10, 11, 18 and 19. Support for new claims 26-33 can be found, for example in the present specification at paragraphs [0040], [0045], [0058], and in original claims 10, 11, 18 and 19. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 10-16 and 18-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,641,919 to Hayashi et al. ("Hayashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,256,326 to Kawato et al. ("Kawato") and U.S. Patent No. 5,993,729 to Lefebvre et al. ("Lefebvre"). Applicants provide the following comments regarding the patentability of the presently examined claims.

A. Claims 10 and 18

Claim 10 recites "particles of the magnetic powder are directly bound to each other by oxidation caused by the thermal treatment" (emphasis added). Claim 18 recites "particles of the magnetic powder are directly bound to each other by oxidization" (emphasis added). Hayashi and Kawato do not disclose a structure in which particles of magnetic powder are bound by oxidation. While Lefebvre appears to disclose an iron powder compact in which particles of a magnetic powder are bonded by oxidation (*see* column 3, lines 51 to 53), one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Lefebvre with the teachings of Hayashi and Kawato.

Notwithstanding the fact that Lefebvre is directed to a method in which an iron powder compact is formed by compacting a magnetic powder in the absence of a binder resin, the February 21, 2007 Advisory Action asserts that a binder may be impregnated in a later step in Lefebvre. However, even if Lefebvre does provide such teaching Lefebvre does not remotely disclose or suggest employing a resin powder having a lubrication function and a binding function. That is, one of ordinary skill in the art would likely conclude that Lefebvre excludes the use of a resin powder having a lubrication function and a binding function.

While the Advisory Action identifies individual components of the compacts of claims 10 and 18 in the cited references, the Advisory Action fails to identify a reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine the references as proposed. Applicants submit that it would have been impossible, in the absence of such motivation, to combine Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre to obtain the compacts of claims 10 and 18. Claims 10 and 18 are patentable over the cited references.

B. Claims 11 and 19

Claim 11 recites "insulation coatings of the magnetic powder are bound to each other by oxidation caused by the thermal treatment" (emphasis added). Claim 19 recites "insulation film coatings of the magnetic powder are bound to each other by oxidation" (emphasis added). None of Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre discloses or suggests a soft magnetic green compact in which insulation coatings of a magnetic powder are bound to each other by oxidation. Accordingly, the combination of Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 11 and 19.

C. Claims 28 and 29

Claims 28 and 29 each recite that "the insulation coating covers the iron system powder so that there is no mixed powder between the iron system powder and the insulation coating" (emphasis added). None of Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre discloses or suggests soft magnetic green compact in which an insulation coating covers an iron system powder so that there is no mixed powder between the iron system powder and the insulation coating. Accordingly, the combination of Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 28 and 29.

D. Claims 30 and 31

Claims 30 and 31 each recite that "the resin powder is applied by the thermal treatment" (emphasis added). None of Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre discloses or suggests a soft magnetic green compact in which a resin powder is applied by thermal treatment, or the unique structure resulting therefrom. Accordingly, the combination of Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 30 and 31.

E. Claims 32 and 33

Claim 32 and 33 each recite that "the resin powder is present in an amount of 0.010-3.00 weight percent relative to a total weight of the green compact before the molding and is present in an amount of 0.010-0.50 weight percent relative to the total weight of the green compact after molding and thermal treatment" (emphasis added). None of Hayashi, Kawato and Lefebvre discloses or suggests a soft magnetic green compact in which a resin powder is present in an amount of 0.010-3.00 weight percent relative to a total weight of the green compact before molding and is present in an amount of 0.010-0.50 weight percent relative to the total weight of the green compact after molding and thermal treatment, or the unique

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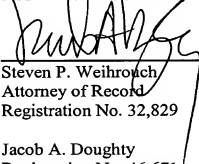
structure associated with such a composition. Accordingly, the combination of Hayashi,
Kawato and Lefebvre fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 32 and 33.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 and 18-33 are in
condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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